

Job 3: Losing It All

- Be very careful when drawing conclusions about yourself and your circumstances.
- Be especially careful when drawing conclusions about others and their circumstances.

Review:

- ✓ **Luke 18:18-19; Genesis 1:31**
 - ✓ Adam and Eve became bad as result of sin and gave birth to bad people! **Genesis 5:1, 3**
 - **Romans 3:10-12.**
 - ✓ You see, we operate from a false premise: there are good people; that False premise has led to **false conclusions:**
 - 1) God must be evil to treat good people this way.
 - 2) There is no God because if there were He wouldn't let bad things happen to good people. Etc.
 - ✓ We are confused about the wrong things.
 - 1) Bad things happen and we are confused, but bad people deserve only bad things.
 - 2) We should be confused when good things happen, because bad people don't deserve good things at all.
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Mercy = not getting what we do deserve **Romans 6:23.**

- ✓ Anything this side of Hell is a good day!

Grace = Getting what we do not deserve **Romans 5:7-8.**

- ✓ He died for God haters.
 - ✓ He died for His enemies.
 - Don't you agree that God-hating, adulterating, murdering, enemies of God deserve to go to Hell??
 - **Hell makes much more since than Heaven.**
 - ✓ Hell is a fitting, logical and fair destination, and eternal experience for those who break the laws of the King of the universe.
 - ✓ Heaven is a not fitting, logical or fair destination for those who break His rules.
 - ✓ If they are not in Hell, isn't that pure mercy?
 - ✓ If they ever have anything good, isn't that pure grace?
 - ✓ If one of us who is better than most (like Job) has all his worldly possessions taken from him, should we be shocked, appalled, or angry with God?
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There may or may not be a direct relationship between our behavior and what happens to us.

- ✓ If there were then as soon as we sinned we should be zapped!

Because God is gracious and merciful, we have good things in our lives,

- ✓ We have health and longevity, we aren't zapped when we sin, we often are rewarded when we do well.
 - ✓ Please don't make the mistake when blessings do come, and we are rewarded by God to assume that we are worthy or deserving or entitled to such things!
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Christmas Anomaly

- ✓ Christmas is a strange happening, it really is, an absolute anomaly.
 - ✓ I'm referring to the strangeness of the broader idea that God would come to earth, and not kill every last one of us when He did.
 - ✓ The beauty of Christmas is that God Himself comes to earth, not giving us what we deserve.
 - ✓ In fact, He comes to give us what we don't deserve. **John 3:17**
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LOSING IT ALL

- ✓ What would you do if you lost everything this year??
 - ✓ Do you want to be joyful and satisfied this year?? Then, believe it or not, we need to take a look at the worst-case scenario.
 - ✓ Facts are, you will lose it all, if not this year, some year, it will all leave you or you will leave all of it.
 - ✓ What would you do if you lost it all? The answer is important because it is a tool by which we can evaluate where we currently stand.
 - ✓ Let's say you are diagnosed with a terminal illness this year and aren't around this time next year?? What will you do?
 - ✓ Questions like these are inevitably raised by this disturbing book we call "**Job.**"
 - ✓ Job loses everything but his life, his reaction demonstrates where his security was: **Job 1:21.**
 - ✓ Job was not getting what he did deserve, mercy; he was getting what he didn't deserve, grace.
 - ✓ Everything he had, came from God, God had a right to take it back.
 - ✓ Are you OK with that?
 - ✓ It all came from God, He can take it back for no apparent reason...it is His stuff, we haven't borrowed, leased, we hold no contract that says we have a right to it under certain conditions.
 - ✓ God is just letting you enjoy His stuff because He's good and He won't be any less good if He takes it back, will He?
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1. Taking a hard look at the worst-case scenario or lesser tragedies is important because it raises deeper questions like:

- ✓ Where is my security?
- ✓ Upon what do I truly depend?

2. Taking a hard look at losing it all is important because it is actually a requirement for discipleship: **Matthew 16:24-25; Luke 14:33.**

- ✓ Discipleship means following Jesus, following Jesus may very well lead to a cross!! **Luke 9:23** (every day is a day I take a hard look at losing it all because it might be the day that I do!)
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